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FORMER RED BLUFF WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MARIJUANA CHARGE

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that CYNTHIA BARCELO BLAKE, 56, formerly of Red Bluff, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to one felony count of maintaining a residence to cultivate marijuana.

This case was the product of an investigation by the Tehama County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, the Tehama County Sheriff's Department, the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Inspectors Division, and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Stegman, who is prosecuting the case, BLAKE admitted to the Court that she and a co-defendant, David Dean Davidson, were growing over 1,100 marijuana plants in greenhouses and a garage at her Harness Lane residence in Red Bluff. On July 29, 2003, Tehama County law enforcement obtained a search warrant for the property and found 1,134 marijuana plants and cuttings growing in three greenhouses and the garage of the residence. There were 34 plants in the greenhouses, all of which were mature plants, approximately six feet tall. There were 1,100 cuttings in the basement garage, each of which was about six inches tall. Also found were three pounds of processed marijuana in the house.

BLAKE is scheduled to be sentenced on April 4, 2006 before United States District Judge Morrison C. England. The maximum penalty for this offense is 20 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.

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